



Summary of
Topics Raised in Convening Interviews for
Wind Turbine Guidelines Federal Advisory Committee

AArnold

RESOLVE, Inc.

Building Results Through Consensus

Washington DC

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

Convening Approach

Interviews [29] with key stakeholders representing federal, state, environmental NGO, Industry, consultants, and academic community.

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

*Summary of Topics for
Committee to Address
Process Suggestions*

- Early on clarify scope of Committee business
- Recognize differences in Committee member expertise and interests
- Use of recommendations
- Meetings held in various parts of the country

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

*Summary of Topics for
Committee to Address
Policy*

- Federal role, Interior role?
 - Framework
 - Establish research needs/priorities
 - Consolidate lessons learned
 - Application to Section 7 consultation of ESA
- Consistency/coordination among federal agencies

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

*Summary of Topics for
Committee to Address
Policy*

USFWS draft Voluntary Guidelines

Views of NGOs and industry consistent with
comments submitted on Guidelines in 2006

Coordination with state policy

- Role of federal guidelines

“*step down*” needs clarification

- Learn from what states have learned....

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

*Summary of Topics for
Committee to Address
Policy*

- “*Leadership*” opportunities
 - Provide certainty
 - Intersection of NEPA, MBTA, ESA....BEPA....
 - Coordination function for federal agencies
 - Education of staff
 - ‘Standard’ for “green seal”
 - Consistent and regular coordination about what is learned at various sites
- Consider unique nature of siting on tribal lands

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

*Summary of Topics for
Committee to Address
Policy*

- Consider other models to inform FAC recommendation
 - Habitat Conservation Plans's
 - Avian Protection Plan (APLIC)
 - Other federal agency guidelines (US/Canada)
 - State guidelines (WA,CA,PA,NY,WI.....)

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

*Summary of Topics for
Committee to Address
Policy –
incentives for compliance*

- Regulation or voluntary
- Mitigation
- Voluntary in-house screening of sites
- Certification?
- Safe harbors?
- Other?

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

*Summary of Topics for
Committee to Address
Bridge to Technical*

- Research/monitoring
 - How much research/monitoring is needed?
 - Pre-siting, during construction, when in operation
 - What are acceptable methods?
 - Frequency, duration?
 - Engage cooperation of leading research institutions

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

*Summary of Topics for
Committee to Address
Bridge to Technical*

- Ensure a coordinated research and publication program that fosters research; incorporation of what is learned to modify existing policy or guidelines at federal, state, local level.
- Ensure monitoring data and research is collated, peer reviewed, and used to inform policy

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

Summary of Topics for Committee to Address Technical-Research

Draft NWCC Wildlife Workgroup Summary of Key Research Topics

- Includes research topics posed in:
 - The Wildlife Society's *Impacts of Wind Energy Facilities on Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat* (October 2007)
 - National Academy of Sciences, *Environmental Impacts of Wind-Energy Projects* (April 2007)
 - California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research – Environmental Area, *Research Needs to Support Avian/Bat Assessments and Mitigation at Wind Facilities in California* (January 2007)
 - NWCC members in a January 2007 survey of perceived research priorities about methods and processes currently in use
 - New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) in proceedings and summary of research topics discussed at the 2006 NYSERDA wind and wildlife workshop
 - Additional resources

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

*Summary of Topics for
Committee to Address
Technical-Research*

Categories of Research Topics

- Pre-construction tools, methods & metrics
- Post-construction tools, methods & metrics
- Mitigation measures
- Comparative alternatives analysis
- Impacts to habitat
- Habitat and resource development land-use mapping
- Existing and needed impact, population, habitat, migration and behavioral data
- Bat-specific needs [other wildlife]
- Cumulative/population impacts

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

*Summary of Topics for
Committee to Address
Technical-Research*

- Research (*continued*)
 - Funding of research, imperative
 - Risk Based determinations, in context of risk discussions
 - Impact of adding many GW to grid
 - Uncertainties in the data, how address, how discuss?
 - Develop a typology of how to address uncertainty in wind/wildlife interaction/habitat loss

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

Other Issues

Topic raised by a few FAC members addresses relative impacts of wind power and other technologies.

“Consider application of the “precautionary principle to both sides of the spectrum,” by looking at how to minimize risk to wildlife from wind and how to minimize risk from climate change by “aggressively fostering wind development in the right places.”

- Quote from one of the committee members in interview

RESOLVE

Next Steps?

Results Through Consensus

Committee review these topics, brainstorm
topics members want to raise

Organize topics by subject area

I.d. expertise needed beyond Committee to
address topics Committee wants to address

Agree on who will provide expertise

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

Next Steps?

Consider discussion of set of principles
Committee can agree to that guides
deliberations.

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

*Examples of principles
mentioned by various parties*

-
-
- Implemented at various levels
 - Have legitimacy among the scientific community
 - Can be modified based on new information
 - Link various state requirements with a federal framework
 - Offer a general method for “average situation” and provide additional steps in certain situations (e.g., sensitive habitats, migratory species of concern, endangered species)
 - Consideration to the degree of risk reduction provided by adhering to the guidelines
 - Provide greater certainty about protection from prosecution under the MBTA for guidance adherence
 - Flexible enough to cover range of situations from high risk to lower risk, as well as situations where there is a great deal of knowledge versus situations where there is less knowledge available.

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

Thank you.